In the specification:

Amend the specification as follows:

Page 2, lines 29 - 31;

The additional encoding bits may initially be derived from a random number generator to enable ~~initialisation~~ initialization of the encoding device. The introduction of a random element increases the entropy of the encoding device.

Page 10, lines 12 - 24:

The ~~initialisation~~ initialization encoding bits must be conveyed to a decoding device of the system to which the encoded information is transmitted. However, the bandwidth available for the transmission of this type of control data may not be sufficient to provide an appropriate number of bits for the encoding unit 24. For example, in the case of SPDIF the signal derived from the random bit stream may be provided on the U channel of the data structure (as explained in the following), which provides only one bit per channel sample, as shown in Figure 2.

For this reason, a new random (or quasi-random) bit is generated only once for each input word. The random or quasi random output bit stream is supplied to a transformation unit 34 comprising a serial array of latches 36 which effectively store a number of bits from the previous history of the random number generator 32, so that a larger random word, suitable for generating the ~~initialisation~~ initialization encoding bits, may be generated.

Page 11, lines 13 - 15:

If the number *a* of ~~initialisation~~ initialization bits is sufficiently large, the re-keying of the encoding scheme every word ensures that the function of the combinatorial unit 26 can not be determined by any simple inspection, as explained below.